

PROCEEDINGS
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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW PINE MOUSE FROM FLORIDA.

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Audubon and Bachman recorded the pine mouse from Florida in 1851,* but modern collectors have until very recently failed to find the species in the State. Bangs, in his paper on Florida mammals, was unable to give any information as to the occurrence of the animal there.†

In November, 1913, Stanley E. Piper, of the Biological Survey, secured a single specimen at Ocala, Florida, the skull, however, not being preserved, and in December, 1915, Ray T. Jackson, also of the Biological Survey, succeeded in trapping four more at the same place. These prove to represent a very distinct form, which is here described.

***Pitymys parvulus* sp. nov.**

FLORIDA PINE MOUSE.

Type.—Adult female, skin and skull, No. 210,485, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection), from Ocala, Florida; collected December 15, 1915, by R. T. Jackson.

General characters.—Similar to *Pitymys pinetorum pinetorum*, but paler and decidedly smaller.

Color.—Adult: Upper parts tawny (of Ridgway, 1912), shading on sides and tail to vinaceous-cinnamon; under parts dusky, faintly shaded with vinaceous-cinnamon; feet flesh color. Young: Upper parts between fawn color and wood brown; under parts drab without cinnamon suffusion.

Skull.—Similar to that of *pinetorum* but much smaller; nasals relatively shorter; mastoid portion of bullæ more inflated.

Measurements.—Type (adult ♀): total length, 94; tail vertebrae, 15; hind foot, 14. *Skull*: basal length, 19.3; length of nasals, 5.7; zygomatic

* Quad. N. Am., II, 1851, p. 219.

† Land Mamm. Penin. Florida, etc., Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. 28, 1898, p. 182.

breadth, 13.2; mastoid breadth, 11.4; least interorbital breadth, 4.2; alveolar length of upper molar row, 5.1.

Remarks.—Considering the nearness geographically of this species to *Pitymys pinetorum* of South Carolina and Georgia, the differences between them are remarkable. Further collecting in northern Florida may show that they intergrade, but for the present it seems best to regard *parvulus* as a distinct species.

The habits of this species are described by Mr. Jackson, as follows:

“This little mouse usually selects areas that are covered with a dense growth of trees and shrubs, mainly sand pine and scrub oak. No runways were found in the openings where there were no trees. They dig burrows ranging from about three-fourths of an inch to an inch in diameter and running from one to five or six inches below the surface. These runways weave in and out around the roots of the trees and shrubs (on which no doubt the mice feed to a great extent) and do not run in a straight line for any distance, probably not over a foot or two. The little animals also use the mole runways, probably after they have been abandoned by the mole. (One adult specimen was caught in a mole runway.) Several attempts to follow runways to the nest of the mouse finally resulted in finding a nest under an old board. It was made of palmetto bark and lined with a silky, fibrous material, much like the inside of a milk-weed pod. Around the nest was found the hulls of about two hundred pine seeds.”